11: India G-4, 5 (1960-1961) 1962 AW11 Kerala AW11

distributed over the year. The high degree of rainfall, old geological formation and maritime climate have largely been responsible for the luxuriant forest growth in Kerala. Trees get the full benefit of moisture, depth of soil and protection from frost and drought. For these reasons, forests in Kerala also possess the advantage of a long growing season.

4.5 Most of the forest area lies in the high ranges on the eastern border of the State and in the area adjacent to these. Only a few strips are found in the coastal plain. The forest area is, however, distributed over all the districts of the State. Since the forests run across the whole of eastern border while the districts in the State occur almost longitudinally, all districts, except Alleppey have a good proportion of their area under forests. The districts of Quilon and Trichur have as high as 45.2 per cent and 45.1 per cent respectively of their area under forests. (Table 23) *

4.6 The wide variations in climatic and topographical conditions in the State have resulted in a large variety of forests. With the exception of the desert, the truly temperate and the alpine types, all classes of forests are found in Kerala. In addition to the natural forests, Kerala has also got artificial plantations of valuable species. The State has been a pioneer in this sphere.

4.7 Among the natural forests, deciduous forests comprise 80 per cent of the growth. The rest is of the evergreen type. The evergreens are found mostly in the higher ranges above a height of 2,500 feet since they require a cool climate for their growth. The various types of forests found in the State are given below:

(1) *Evergreen Type*

(a) Southern tropical wet evergreen forests,
(b) Southern tropical semi-evergreen forests,
(c) Mountain wet sub-tropical evergreen forests, and
(d) The temperate Shola-Grasslands.

(2) *Deciduous Type*

(a) Southern tropical wet Deciduous forests and
(b) Tropical dry Deciduous Forests.

4.8 Among the evergreen types, most of the species are utilized in the manufacture of plywood and packing cases, which is a flourishing industry in the State. Pali Kulamavn and Vellapine are some of the well known plywood species. Anjali, which is used for boat-building and mahagony utilized for furniture, are two other important economic species found among the evergreens. Of late, a number of other evergreen species have sprung into prominence and are now finding economic uses. Since markets for these are growing, it is planned to extract these newer species also on a commercial scale.

4.9 Teak and rosewood are the most important species found among the deciduous forests. Vanteak, Rosewood, Poola and Charopine are some of the other important species belonging to this category. These species are chiefly useful in making furniture and in building and construction work. A detailed list of the trees and other major produce found in Kerala along with their present uses is given in Appendix 5.* A list of minor produce is given in Appendix 6.*

* [Table 23, appearing on p. 206 of the text, has not been processed -- Ana.]
* [See pp. 329-333, category 11b -- Analyst]

31: Slater S-5 (1916-1917) 1918 AWI India
Kerala AWII

323 would be better paid. Some of these potters are employed by tile works producing pottery and glazed earthenware and are there paid Rs. 10 or so a month.

Carpenters.—There are five families of carpenters. There is
● 322 steady demand for their labour, which is well paid. The occupation is hereditary and confined to the caste of 'Asaris', as they are called, a division of the Thiyyas. Full time is spent on the craft, which follows very old traditions. Earnings average about 6 annas a day. The carpenters go out to other villages for work.

Goldsmiths, blacksmiths.—Two or three families of each combine
326 their traditionary crafts with agriculture, and are better off than most other low caste families. In the agricultural seasons they work morning and evening in the fields; and only at noon at their crafts. So they earn wages in money and in kind. The goldsmith earns Rs. 8 to Rs. 10 in this way per month; the blacksmith Rs 5 to Rs. 10.

325 *Moulders.*—There is one family making vessels of bell-metal for all sorts of uses—domestic utensils, temple bells, etc. They are very skilled workers and well paid, owing to the great demand for their productions. Some cups, bowls, etc., made by these are very beautiful and exquisitely designed and polished. Earnings Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 per month, according to state of business.

285 *Basket-makers.*—Baskets, mats, etc., are made out of the bamboo by the Parials. Very useful, but cheap. Only a local market and mostly made to order, as most business is in the village. Only spare time is spent in this occupation; it is miserably ill paid owing to weakness in bargaining. There is scope for development.

293 *Umbrella makers.*—Umbrella making is the hereditary occupation of the Panans. The umbrellas are made of palm leaves and bamboo, and much used in the village. Until recently imported umbrellas were not seen. The indigenous article costs only a few coppers and gives better protection against rain, but is unwieldy. The earnings of the Panans from this source are very low, and they are now taking to agricultural labour.

[262] *The Chettis* make what are called *Pappatams*—the thin cakes to be fried in oil, for which Malabar is famous. The Chettis are also cartmen and take goods and passengers to neighbouring
[276] places. The *Paravans* make slaked lime for chewing. About half the adults chew a mixture of betel, areca, and slaked lime.

438 *Village trade.*—The village buys every year agricultural implements such as ploughs, spades, levelling boards, harrows, *kuzhi kutti.* Most of these are made to order by the village craftsmen. Some are bought at neighbouring fairs. Seed is usually preserved by the cultivator out of his produce, but sometimes he is forced by poverty to consume it and then borrows it or buys it with borrowed money. Live stock is bought at the weekly fair of the neighbouring village of Vaniamkulam.

The villagers buy the articles of ordinary consumption like salt, sugar, kerosene oil, gingelly and coconut oil, as well as the various grains and pulses at the village shop. Sugar is a luxury to all but the richest villagers. More than Rs. 600 worth of toddy is sold in the village, the Cherumas, Pariahs and Panans being the chief consumers. They pay in paddy, out of their wages. Clothing is bought at neighbouring fairs or in the nearest trading centre.